

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 28 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please add Claims 29 to 32, as follows:

1. to 28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) A method for transferring communication data in a digital cable network system wherein the digital cable network system includes a sending component and a receiving component which communicate over the network, the method comprising:

determining, at the sending component, a manner of transfer which is selected from a group consisting of all of (i) a referential transfer using a secure pipe, (ii) a referential transfer not using a secure pipe, (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe, and (iv) a direct transfer not using a secure pipe;

transferring, from the sending component to the receiving component, a message which includes the determination result of the determining step;

uploading the communication data from the sending component to a predetermined location on a secure server, responsive to a determination of the determining step that the manner of transfer is (i) a referential transfer using a secure pipe or (ii) a referential transfer not using a secure pipe;

transferring the communication data from the sending component to the receiving component via direct communication responsive to a determination of the

determining step that the manner of transfer is (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe or (iv) a direct transfer not using a secure pipe;

wherein when the determining step determines that the manner of transfer is (i) a referential transfer using a secure pipe or (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe, said transferring step and said uploading step control communication by using a secure socket layer protocol; and

wherein the communication data uploaded by the uploading step is received by the receiving component.

30. (New) The method according to Claim 29, wherein said uploading step further encrypts the data itself before uploading via a secure socket layer.

31. (New) A sending component which communicates over a network to transfer communication data to a receiving component in a digital cable network system, comprising:

a determining unit constructed to determine, at the sending component, a manner of transfer which is selected from a group consisting of all of (i) a referential transfer using a secure pipe, (ii) a referential transfer not using a secure pipe, (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe, and (iv) a direct transfer not using a secure pipe;

a transferring unit constructed to transfer, from the sending component to the receiving component, a message which includes the determination result;

an uploading unit constructed to upload the communication data from the sending component to a predetermined location on a secure server, responsive to a determination of the determining unit that the manner of transfer is (i) a referential transfer using a secure pipe or (ii) a referential transfer not using a secure pipe;

transferring unit constructed to transfer the communication data from the sending component to the receiving component via direct communication responsive to a determination of the determining unit that the manner of transfer is (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe or (iv) a direct transfer not using a secure pipe;

wherein when the determining unit determines that the manner of transfer is (i) a referential transfer using a secure pipe or (iii) a direct transfer using a secure pipe, said transferring unit and said uploading unit control communication by using a secure socket layer protocol; and

wherein the communication data uploaded by the uploading unit is received by the receiving component.

32. (New) The method according to Claim 31, wherein said uploading unit further encrypts the data itself before uploading via a secure socket layer.